

# U. S. Army TACOM Qualified Suppliers List Program (QSL)

**CAROL A. BOYLE**  
**TACOM QSL Program Manager**  
**Quality Engineering Directorate**  
**U.S. Army TACOM-ARDEC**

**973-724-6653**  
**cboyle@pica.army**  
**31 January 2002**



# Outline

- **TACOM MISSION**
- **The Changing Environment**
- **Supplier Management Process**
- **Pillars of Supplier Quality Management**
- **TACOM Qualified Suppliers List (QSL)**
- **QSL Organizational Structure**
- **Customer/Supplier Partnership**
- **Summary**

# TACOM MISSION

**-To Generate Warfighting Capability for the Army**

**-To Sustain the Warfighting Readiness of the Army**

**-To manage the Army's Investment in S&T, R&D and Sustainment for the Army**

3,341 Weapon Systems

**34, 138 NSNs**

300 Systems in Acq Pipeline

**-Serve as the Life Cycle Manager and Integrator for Ground Combat Equipment**

## **Land-automotive & Armaments COMmand**

Research, Develop, Field and Support  
Mobility and Armament Systems Total Life Cycle  
**To Support Army Readiness**

Combat Vehicles  
Tactical Vehicles  
Trailers

Construction Equipment  
Materiel Handling Equipment  
Tactical Bridges

Fuel & Water Distribution Eqpt  
Sets, Kits & Outfits  
Shop Equipment  
Chemical Defense Equipment  
Howitzers  
Large Caliber Guns

Mortars  
Rifles  
Machine Guns  
Ammo  
Aircraft Armaments  
Demolitions & Explosives  
Rail  
Watercraft  
Petro & Lub Eqpt

*Committed to Excellence*

3/23

FORCE

XXI



# The Changing Environment *“TACOM of the Future”*

- Lighter More Deployable Force
- Centralization
- Rapid Development
- Rapid Field Supply
- Tight Schedules
- Increase in Mission
- More Dependent on  
Government/Industry

Partnerships

*Committed to Excellence*



# Supplier Management Process

*“TACOM of the Future”*

- **Supplier Management Process Results In:**
  - **Lower Life Cycle Cost**
  - **Quality Improvement**
  - **Lead Time Reductions**
  - **Improved Safety and Soldier Satisfaction**
  - **Essential to Customer & Supplier Success**
  - **Use of Best Commercial Practices**
  - **Reduce/Eliminate Government Source Inspection (GSI)**
  - **Risk Assessment/Risk Management**
  - **Better - Faster - Cheaper - Smarter**



# TACOM SUPPLIER QUALITY MANAGEMENT



**SUPPLIER  
CERTIFICATION**

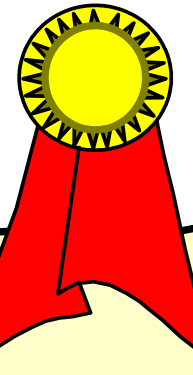
**QUALIFIED  
SUPPLIER  
LIST**

**QUALITY  
PARTNERSHIPS**

**PAST  
PERFORMAN  
CE**



# **Qualified Suppliers List**





# TACOM – QSL

## *“WHAT IS IT”*

- A QSL is a list of suppliers’ facilities that have been evaluated and determined to be acceptable based on *conformance to applicable quality, manufacturing or design process criteria for a family of products.*
- Used To Establish and Maintain a List of *Pre-Qualified Sources* for a Family of Products
- Allows for more *Consistent Delivery of Products that Conform to Customer Requirements*

# **QSL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**TACOM QSL LEAD  
AGENT**

**TACOM-ARDEC**

## **QSL MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Command Sponsor - TACOM-ARDEC

Command Sponsor - TACOM-WARREN

QSL Program Manager - TACOM-ARDEC

Supplier Management Lead Engineer - TACOM-ARDEC

## **QSL EXECUTION BOARD**

Engineering Business Group - TACOM-WARREN

Legal - TACOM-ARDEC, TACOM-WARREN, TACOM-RI

Acquisition Center - TACOM-ARDEC, TACOM-WARREN, TACOM-RI

Small Business - TACOM-ARDEC, TACOM-WARREN, TACOM-RI

Competition Advocate - TACOM-WARREN

Cost Accounting - TACOM-WARREN

Site Point of Contacts - TACOM-ARDEC, TACOM-WARREN, TACOM-RI



# TACOM – QSL BACKGROUND

- **Unique TACOM Program Established and Administered IAW all FAR and DFAR Regulations**
  - **Pilot initiated 28 July 1998**
- **Modeled after DLA DSCP's Program**
- **Objectives**
  - **Reduce Administrative Lead Times & Costs**
    - **Use of Pre-Qualified Suppliers**
    - **Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange**
    - **Use Commercial Practices**
  - **Improve Consistent Delivery of Conforming Parts**
  - **Reduce/Eliminate Gov't Source Inspection**



# QPL, QML & QSL ... What's the Difference?

- **Qualified Products List (QPL)**

**Products** that have met the qualification requirements stated in the applicable **[product] specification**

- **Qualified Manufacturers List (QML)**

**Facilities** that have been evaluated and determined to be acceptable based on the **testing and approval of a sample specimen** and

- **Qualified Suppliers List (QSL)**

**Facilities** that have been evaluated and determined to be acceptable based on conformance to applicable quality, manufacturing or **design** **products**



# How is QSL Different from (CP)<sup>2</sup>?

## (CP)<sup>2</sup>

- Pre-qualification
- Perpetual Certification
- Certification Assessments
- Continuous Improvement Metrics after Certification
- ISO 9000 Plus
- World-Class Practices
- Keeps Superior Suppliers
- Small List

## QSL

- Pre-qualification
- Three Year Qualification
- Site Surveys (Maybe)
- Surveillance Audits after Qualification (Maybe)
- ISO 9000 Tailored
- Commercial Practices
- Removes Weak Suppliers
- Large List



# Selecting a QSL Family of Products

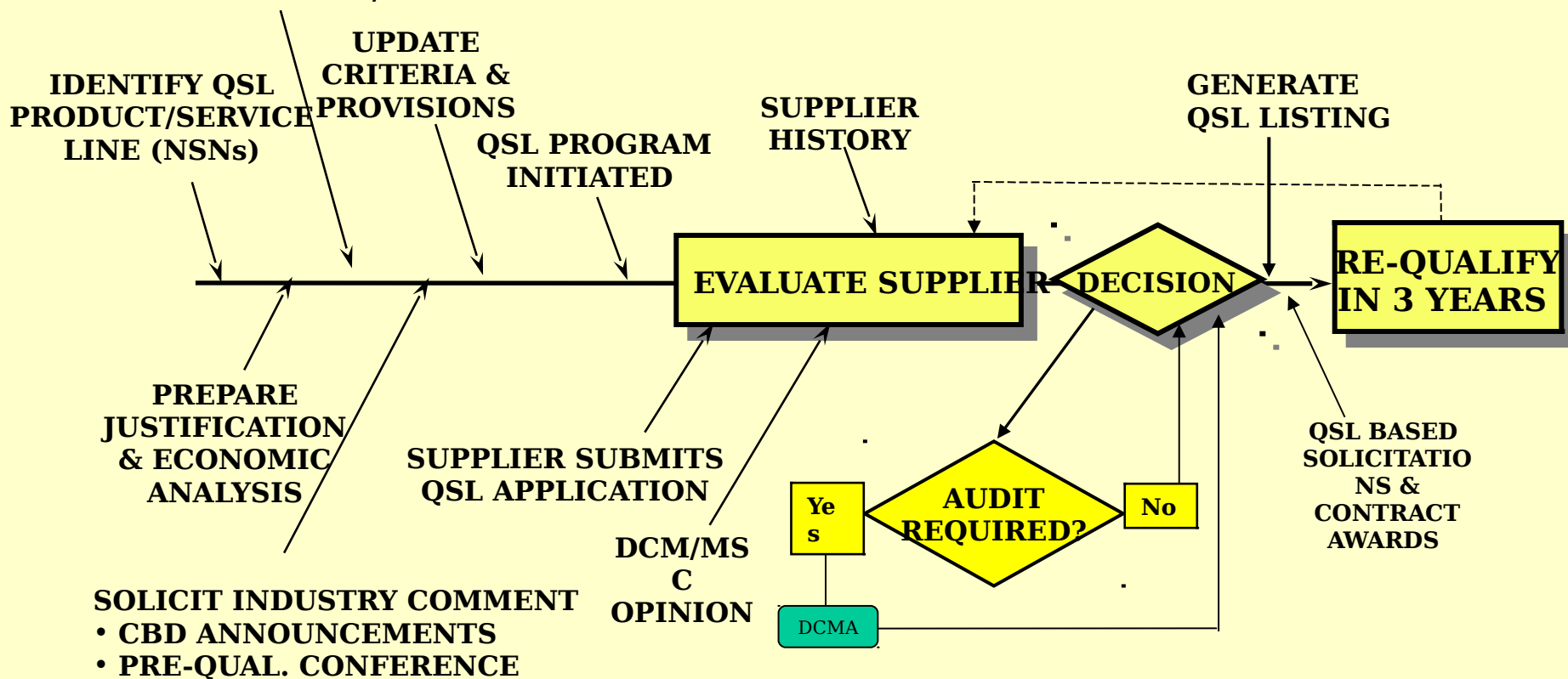
- Products Manufactured Using Similar Processes.
- Same Contractors make Many of the Products.
- Routinely Many Bidders.
- Coordinate QSL Lists with Small Business.
- ***It Must Be Cost Effective!!***



# The TACOM QSL Process

## DEVELOP CRITERIA & PROVISIONS

- CORE QUALITY REQUIREMENTS
- PRODUCT UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS
- CONSISTENT W/INDUSTRY NORMS





# TACOM's QSL Principles

- Encourages the Use of Commercial Practices
- Enforcement must be Effective, Efficient but Constant
- Those who Can't Deliver must be removed from the QSL
- Working for TACOM must mean that the company is a SOLID SUPPLIER



# CURRENT TACOM QSLs

**QSL-01 Tracked Combat Vehicle  
Suspension Components  
(26 NSNs)**

**QSL-02 Plastic Spare Parts for Small Arms  
(13 NSNs)**

**QSL-03 Tactical Wheeled Vehicle  
Components  
(24 NSNs)**

**QSL-04 Padded Cushions  
(25 NSNs)**

***A Supplier Must be on the QSL to Contract  
with TACOM for these Products!!!***



# TACOM QSL GOALS

- **TACOM QSL Goals**
  - **Partner with DLA (Leveraging DLA QSLs)**
  - **Continually Develop Additional QSL's**
  - **Expand into Services**
  - **To continually increase the utilization of the QSL Program in the TACOM Acquisition Process where feasible and applicable**
  - **To continually obtain an increase in cost savings**



# Customer/Supplier QSL Partnership Benefits

- ***Reduce Acquisition Cycle Time***
  - Simplified Bid Procedures
  - Evaluation Prior to Acquisition Process
  - Reduction/Elimination GSI
  - Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI)
- ***Improve Performance***
  - Improved Supplier Quality
  - Insures that DLA/TACOM are procuring from the same qualified sources for a given group of



# Customer/Supplier QSL Partnership Benefits (Cont.)

- ***Use Commercial Practices***
  - Industry Norms vs. Gov't Standards
  - Fewer CDRLs
  - Fewer Audits
- ***Procure Goods and Services Using Best Techniques***
  - Award to Pre-Qualified Suppliers
  - Risk Management in Source Selection



# TACOM QSL Summary

- QSL Qualification is Not Linked to a Specific Contract
- QSL is NOT a Standardization Program
- Being on the QSL is a Prerequisite for Getting Certain TACOM Contracts
- QSLs Support Acquisition Reform/Excellence



# Summary Continued

- QSL is a proven business enhancing process
  - Facilitates acquisition streamlining
  - Reduces Cycle Time
  - Reduces/eliminates need for GSI
  - Evaluates and manages risk
  - Improves product quality
  - Reduces life cycle costs



# Summary Continued

- Supplier Management Process will provide quality improvement for both Customers and Suppliers.
- QSL will be applied to TACOM's business
- Communication is vital to success.
- We share common goals, let us accomplish them together.



# Any Questions?

## Qualification Criteria / Provisions   Acquisition/ Procurement

**Ms. Carol A. Boyle  
AMSTA-AR-QAW-P**

**(973) 724-6653 / DSN 880-6653  
cboyle@pica.army.mil**

**Ms. Terri Wyckoff  
AMSTA-AQ-AM**

**(310) 574-7216 / DSN 786-7216  
wyckofft@tacom.army.mil**

**TACOM QSL Home Page**

**<http://contracting.tacom.army.mil/qs1/qs1.htm>**